

Oral Response #1: Cultural Self-Introduction (5 points)

Context: This activity is motivated by the frequent need in social, academic and professional life to succinctly summarize key information. In job interview or networking contexts, for example, a common direction is “Tell me about yourself,” with the expectation that we provide the essentials within two minutes. Otherwise, our conversation partner loses interest.

In the world of management, a summary of a product pitch is referred to as the “elevator speech.” In an academic context, a research summary is sometimes called “an academic minute.” For students of 21G.221, this nano-presentation is an introduction to yourself as an individual who has been shaped by your cultural experiences.

What is expected: Each of you will present an “academic minute” (no longer than 120 seconds) to members of the class. Your introduction should be extemporaneous (not memorized and not read aloud), and your tone should be conversational. You will be videotaped and have the chance to see yourself in action.

Criteria for grading: Your challenge will be to (1) identify several of the most salient features of your cultural self and (2) prepare and deliver a short conversational summary. Your classmates and I will provide feedback on the success of your strategy and delivery according to the following criteria.

Strategy	Delivery and Use
Focus of response	Position of presenter & gestures
Linking to course content	Eye contact & facial expressions
Extemporaneous delivery	Listener ease: volume, rate, clarity
Timing: 60-120 seconds	Signs of confidence

Self-evaluation: I will videotape and send you a private link so you can watch the video and send me a short e-mail message identifying (1) one or two concrete features of your delivery that you feel good about and (2) one or two concrete features that you would like to improve over the course of the semester.

Optional assignment: Watch your video again. As you watch, create a written transcript of the first 45 seconds; note every word, pause or sound. Use the transcript as you watch for a third time to identify concrete features of your presentation that demonstrate particular strengths or weaknesses. Schedule an appointment to debrief.

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